

A
DECLARATION
OF THE
FAITH AND PRACTICE
OF THE
CHURCH OF CHRIST,

IN
LITTLE ALIE-STREET,

K Goodmans'-fields,

UNDER THE PASTORAL CARE OF

William Shenston.

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A

DECLARATION, &c.

HAVING been enabled, through Divine Grace, to give up ourselves to the Lord, and likewise to one another by the Will of God, we account it a Duty incumbent upon us, to make a Declaration of our Faith and Practice, to the Honour of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Glory of his Name; knowing, that as with the Heart Man believeth unto Righteousness, so with the Mouth Confession is made unto Salvation; which Declaration is as follows:

I.

I.

2 Tim. iii. 15, 16
 2 Pet. i. 20, 21.
 Psalm cxix. 128
 & xix. 9, 10, 11.
 1 John iv. 1.
 1st. viii. 20, and
 xxx. 2. Luke
 xi. 49. John v.
 39.

We believe that (all) the Scriptures
 of the Old and New Testament are
 the real Word of God, and the only
 Rule of Faith and Practice.

II.

Deut. vi. 4.
 Matt. xix. 7.
 1 John v. 7.
 Gen. i. 26.
 1st. vi. 8. Rev. i. 8.
 John i. 1, 2, 3.
 1st. ix. 6. Luke
 iii. 22. John xvi.
 13, 14, 15.
 2 Cor. iii. 16, 17.
 1 Cor. xii. 8, 9,
 10, 11.

We believe that there is but One
 only living and true God, and that
 there are Three Persons in the God-
 head, the Father, the Son, and the
 Holy Ghost; who are equal in Na-
 ture, Power, and Glory; and that the
 Son and the Holy Ghost are as truly
 and properly God, as the Father.

III.

Eph. i. 3, 4, 5, 6.
 2 Thess. ii. 13.
 Rom. viii. 33.
 and ix. 11.
 Titus i. 1, 2.
 2 Tim. i. 9.
 2 Sam. xxiii. 5.
 1st. xlix. 6, 7, 8, 9.
 and liv. 9, 10.
 and lv. 3, 4.

We believe that before the World
 began, God did elect a certain Num-
 ber of Persons unto everlasting Salva-
 tion, whom he did predestinate to the
 Adoption of Children by Jesus Christ,

of

of his own free Grace, according to the good Pleasure of his Will; and that in Pursuance of this gracious Design, he did make a Covenant of Grace and Peace with his Son Jesus Christ, on the Behalf of those Persons his Chosen, wherein a Saviour was appointed, and all Spiritual Blessings settled upon them; and also that their Persons, with all their Grace and Glory, were put into the Hands of Christ, and made his especial Care and Charge.

IV.

We believe that God created the first Man Adam after his Image, and in his Likeness, an upright, innocent, and holy Creature, capable of serving and glorifying Him while he thus stood; but he sinning, all his Posterity sinned in him, and came short of the Glory of God; the Guilt of whose Sin is imputed, and a corrupt Nature derived;

Jer. xxxi. 33.
Psal. lxxxix. 28,
29, 30, 31, 32,
33, 34.
Zech. vi. 12, 13.

Gen. ii. 26, 27.
Prov. xvi. 4.
Eccl. vii. 29.
Gen. iii. 6, 7, 8,
9, 10, 11, 12,
13, 24.
Rom. v. 12, 19.
Rom. iii. 23.
Job xiv. 4. &
xxv. 4.
Psal. li. 5.
Rom. vii. 14.
Isaiah vi. 5.
John iii. 3.
Jer. iv. 22. &
xiii. 23.
Eph. ii. 3.
Rom. v. 18. &
vi. 23.

derived, to all his Offspring descending from him by ordinary and natural Generation ; that they are by their first Birth carnal and unclean, averse to all that is Good, and incapable of doing any, and prone to every Sin ; and are also by Nature Children of Wrath, and under a Sentence of Condemnation, and so are subject not only to a corporeal Death, and involved in a moral one, commonly called spiritual, but are also, as Sinners, exposed to an eternal Death ; from all which there is no Deliverance but by Christ, the second Adam.

V.

Prov. viii. 22, 23

1 Tim. ii. 5, 6.

Heb. vii. 22. &

ix. 24.

Gal. iv. 4, 5.

John i. 14.

Heb. ii. 11, 14, 16

1 Pet. iii. 18.

1 Cor. xv. 3.

Isaiah xlii. 21.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ, being set up from everlasting as Mediator of the New Covenant, and He having engaged to be the Surety of his People, did in the Fullness of Time really assume human Nature, in which Nature he really suffered

ferred and died as their Substitute in their Room and Stead, whereby he made all that Satisfaction for their Sins, which the Law and Justice of God could require, as well as made Way for the Conveyance of all those Blessings which are needful for them, both for Time and Eternity.

VI.

We believe that the eternal Redemption which Christ has obtained by the Shedding of his Blood, is special and particular, being only designed for the Elect of God, and Sheep of Christ, who only share the special and peculiar Blessings of it.

Eph. i. 7.
1 Pet. i. 18, 19.
Heb. ix. 12, 14.
Rev. v. 9, 10.

VII.

We believe that the Justification of God's Elect is only by the Righteousness of Christ imputed to them, without the Consideration of any Works of Righteousness done by them, and

If. xlv. 24, 25.
Jer. xlii. 6.
Isaiah lxi. 10.
Rom. iii. 21,
22, 25, 26.
Titus iii. 5.
Psal. xxxii. 1, 2,
& lxxxv. 2.
Rom. v. 9. &
iv. 6, 7.

the

the full and free Pardon of all their Sins and Transgressions, past, present, and to come, is only through the Blood of Christ, according to the Riches of his Grace.

VIII.

1 Pet. i. 3, 23.
James i. 18.
Eph. i. 18, 19.
Phil. ii. 13.
Rom. ix. 16.
Zech. iv. 6.
Psalm cx. 3.

We believe that the Work of Regeneration, Conversion, Sanctification, and Faith, is not an Act of Man's Free Will and Power, but of the almighty, efficacious, and invincible Grace of God.

IX.

Job xvii. 9.
Jer. xxxii. 40.
Phil. i. 6.
John x. 28.
Rom. viii. 30,
35, 38, 39.

We believe that all those who are chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and sanctified by the Spirit, shall certainly and finally persevere, so that not one of them shall ever perish, but shall have everlasting life.

X. We

X.

We believe that there will be a Resurrection of the Dead, both of the Just and the Unjust; and that Christ will come a second Time to judge both the Quick and Dead, when he will take Vengeance on the Wicked, and introduce his own People into his Kingdom and Glory, where they shall be forever with him.

Acts xviii. 31.
and xxiv. 15.
Luke xx. 35, 36.
1 Thess. iv. 16.
Rev. xx. 6.
John v. 28, 29.
and xi. 23, 24.
Heb. ix. 28.
Rev. i. 7.
2 Thess. i. 7, 8,
9, 10.
2 Tim. iv. 1, 8.
2 Cor. v. 10.

XI.

We believe that Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, are Ordinances of Christ; to be continued until his second coming; and that the former is absolutely requisite to the latter; that is to say, that those, and those only are to be admitted into the Communion of the Church, and to participate of all its Ordinances, who, upon a Profession of their Faith in Christ, have been baptised (by Immersion) in the Name of the

Matt. iii. 13,
14, 15, 16. &
xxviii. 19, 20.
John iii. 23.
Acts ii. 38, 41.
& viii. 12, 36,
37, 38. & x. 47,
48. & xvi. 15,
32, 33. & xviii.
8.
Matt. xxvi. 26,
27, 28.
Luk. xxii. 19, 20.
1 Cor. xi. 26.
Mark xvi. 16.
Rom. vi. 3, 4.

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

XII.

1 Cor. xiv. 15.
Eph. v. 19.
Coloss. iii. 16.
James v. 13.

We also believe that Singing of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (vocally) is an Ordinance of the Gospel, designed of God for the Comfort and Edification of his Chosen.

Jude 3.
Phil. i. 27.
1 Cor. xvi. 13.
1 Theff. v. 21.
Coloss. iv. 5.
1 Theff. iv. 12.
Acts xxiv. 16.
2 Cor. i. 13.
Titus ii. 11, 12.
1 Pet. v. 5.
iii. 8.
Rom. xii. 19. &
x. 16.
Heb. xiii. 1.
1 John iv. 11.
Heb. x. 24, 25.
Rom. xiv. 23.
Matt. xviii. 15.
16, 17.
1 Theff. v. 14.
Psalm cxli. 5.
Mat. iii. 16.
Gal. vi. 2.
Heb. vi. 10.
James v. 16.
Psalm cxxxii. 15.
Isaiah lvi. 5.

Now all and each of these Doctrines and Ordinances, with all the Doctrines and Ordinances of the Gospel, we look upon ourselves under the greatest Obligations to embrace, maintain, and defend, believing it to be our Duty and Privilege to stand fast in one Spirit, with one Mind, striving together for the Faith of the Gospel: And whereas we are sensible that our Conversation, both in the World and in the Church, ought to be as becometh the Gospel of Christ, we judge it our incumbent Duty to walk in Wisdom towards them

of the them that are without; to exercise a
 Conscience, void of Offence, towards
 God and Man, by living soberly,
 righteously, and godly, in this present
 World: And as to our Conduct to
 each other in our Church Communion,
 we esteem it our Duty to walk with
 each other in all Humility and Bro-
 therly Love; to watch over each
 other's Conversation; to stir up one
 another to Love and good Works; not
 forsaking the assembling ourselves
 together as we have Opportunity; to
 worship God according to his revealed
 Will; and when the Case requires it,
 to warn, rebuke, and admonish one
 another, according to the Rule of the
 Gospel: Likewise we think ourselves
 obliged to sympathize with each other
 in all Conditions, both inward and
 outward, which God, in his Providence
 may bring us into: As also to bear
 with one another's Weakness, Failings
 and Infirmities, and particularly to pray
 one for another; and that the Gospel,
 and

and the Ordinances thereof, might be blessed, to the Edification and Comfort of each other's Souls; and for the gathering in of others to Christ, besides those who are already called. All which Duties we desire to be found in the Performance of, through the gracious Aid and Assistance of the Holy Spirit, whilst we both admire and adore the Grace which hath given us a Place and a Name in God's House, better than that of Sons and Daughters.

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FINTS.

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